

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Romans, whose love of liberty made them masters of the world. Let them rise, too, and aid in expelling this abomination from Italy, for this will be a truly Roman work. Let them not be seduced by the suggestions of the priests that, if they support the state of the Church, the Pope will bring back the Roman Curia to Italy. Surely the Romans will not suffer Italy to be trampled under foot for their own gain. The example of Urban V has shown how little such promises can be trusted, and, indeed, if the Pope comes, he will set his seat at Perugia instead of Rome. " Therefore, dearest brothers, consider their deeds, not their words ; for not your advantage, but their lust of domination is bringing them back to Italy. Be not deceived by honeyed words, and do not suffer your Italy, which your forefathers with the cost of so much blood made the head of all the world, to be subject to barbarians and foreigners. Repeat once more the saying of the famous Cato : We do not so much desire to be free as to live with freemen."¹

But the Romans were resolved to do nothing to prevent the restoration of the Apostolic See to the Eternal City. " We had firmly intended," wrote Gregory to all the States and peoples of Italy, a few days later, " to return with the Roman Curia to the Supreme City and our other towns in Italy, and to live and die among you, and to relieve you of the heavy burdens which, on account of the whirlwinds of warfare, you have borne, to our great displeasure and that of our predecessors, and to preserve you in peace, and rule you with beneficent government with the aid of the Most High."² He further appointed a Roman, Cardinal Francesco Tebaldeschi, a good man but enfeebled by age and illness, to succeed the Cardinal Abbot of Marmoutier as vicar-general of the Church in the Papal States. Simultaneously, he attempted to come to terms with the league, through the intervention of the Queen of Naples and the Doge of Genoa, who sent two ambassadors, Niccolo Spinelli and Bartolommeo Giacompi, to Florence. But, before they arrived, Gregory, on February n,

¹ Letter of January 4, 1376. Pastor, *Geschichte*, I. document 4. ³ *Litterae hortativae pro parte domini nostri papae*, etc. Dated Avignon, January 6, 1376. Biblioteca Vaticana, *Cod. Vat. Lot.* 6330, f. 430.